Tamil interpreters in Gulf countries

2637. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of problems faced by labourers going to Gulf countries from Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to appoint Tamil interpreters in Gulf Embassies considering heavy concentration of labourers for the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government is fully aware of problems faced by labourers going to Gulf countries from Tamil Nadu.

(b) There are no specific proposals to appoint Tamil interpreters in our Embassies in Gulf countries.

(c) and (d) The Ministry is sensitive to the needs of the Indian community living in foreign countries. Wherever possible, the Ministry tries to post officials particularly those who are likely to work in Consular Section, who are proficient in a specific Indian language. Moreover, the Indian Embassies have facilities for interpretation when the officials are interacting with the members of the Indian community in cases where this may be necessitated.

Schools for children of diplomats

2638. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries in which Indian schools are being run for children of our diplomats abroad;

(b) the children of how many diplomats are studying in schools/ universities abroad and in which counties; and

(c) the details of financial assistance/allowances being given to diplomats for this purpose?